

Husband: **WILLIAM I. LAWRENCE**¹
Born: Circa 1630 Saint Albans, Hertfordshire, England
Married: Circa 1656 Hempstead, New Netherland?
Died: 1701-04
Buried:
Father: HENRY LAWRENCE (21 June 1604 – 8 August 1664)
Mother: AMY PEYTON (1605 - ?)

Wife: **HANNAH GROVER**
Born: Circa 1630
Died: Before 1693
Buried:
Father: JAMES GROVER, JUNIOR (born 1581)
Mother: ANNE EAMES

Issue:	Born:	Where:
1) JAMES LAWRENCE	circa 1657	Hempstead, New Netherland
2) WILLIAM LAWRENCE	circa 1658	Hempstead, New Netherland
3) HANNAH LAWRENCE	circa 1660	Hempstead, New Netherland
4) BENJAMIN LAWRENCE	1664	Hempstead, New Netherland
5) ELISHA LAWRENCE	17 February 1666	Hempstead, New Netherland
6) JOSEPH LAWRENCE	1670	Middletown, Monmouth County, EJ
7) JOHN LAWRENCE	1668	Middletown, Monmouth County, EJ

Three Men Named WILLIAM LAWRENCE

The ancestry of WILLIAM is a difficult one to identify. There is a great amount of interest in the LAWRENCE ancestry attested to by the hundreds of researchers investigating this name. Most identify their lines with descendants of SIR ROBERT LAWRENCE of Ashton Hall, Lancastershire, England who fought in the Crusades under the banner of RICHARD, *Coeur de Leon* who knighted SIR ROBERT 1191 A.D. Half a millennia later, on 7 June 1635 the *Planter* landed at Boston carrying three siblings, allegedly descendants of SIR ROBERT: JOHN (17 years), WILLIAM (12) and MARIA (9) LAWRENCE, children of THOMAS LAWRENCE and JOAN ANTROBUS. A fourth sibling THOMAS LAWRENCE supposedly arrived in 1655. This *second* WILLIAM LAWRENCE that sailed on the *Planter* was born in or before 1622 at Great Saint Albans where he was baptized on 22 July in that year. Both Great Saint Albans and Saint Albans are towns in Hertfordshire. We do not know the age of WILLIAM at the time of his baptism which means that 1622 can only be said to be the latest year of birth and that is around eight years earlier than the year our ancestor is believed to have been born. Since the age of WILLIAM LAWRENCE who arrived in 1635 on the *Planter*, said to be 12, is close to the youngest possible age of the WILLIAM baptized at Great Saint Albans in 1622, that being 13, it is possible, perhaps likely, that these two events concerned the same person.² This WILLIAM moved to the same area of Long Island and is found in the same towns as our ancestor. He married ELIZABETH SMITH and had a large family. The documentation is very clear – *our* ancestor was married to HANNAH GROVER with whom he had seven children

– and though he had a wife named ELIZABETH, her surname was *SCUDDER* not SMITH, and that marriage occurred 30 years after the move to Monmouth.

Now onto a *third* WILLIAM LAWRENCE: he was baptized at Saint Albans, Hertfordshire, England on 13 June 1630. The names of WILLIAM’S parents were recorded by one researcher as though they were taken from this record but this is not certain.³ The researcher names WILLIAM’S father as HENRY LAWRENCE and his mother as AMY PEYTON which, lacking any evidence to the contrary, are assumed to be correct despite the researcher’s failure to cite his source for the information. However, he mixes up this WILLIAM with both our ancestor and the *second* WILLIAM LAWRENCE, so nothing is known about this *third* WILLIAM as this is the sole source to mention him and most of it is wrong. This attribution of the subject to these parents has a long and respectful history – which makes the eradication of such an error all the more difficult. SIR HENRY LAWRENCE has been touted as *the President of CROMWELL’S Council* while AMY PEYTON’S family *became prominent in Virginia*.⁴

It is tempting to jump to the conclusion that the WILLIAM LAWRENCE who married HANNAH GROVER and the WILLIAM LAWRENCE that landed in Boston in 1635 is the same person, and many have made that leap but the facts argue against it. The Monmouth County (NJ) Historical Association (MCHA) makes matters worse by saying, on their website, that *WILLIAM L. LAWRENCE I, an Englishman who came to America in 1661...* it’s unclear where this came from but our ancestor, the one who moved to Monmouth and who is the person they are referring to, was on Long Island before 1654. With the records at hand, and the discrepancies that exist between the many published versions, it is not possible to state as fact that our subject is related to the passengers of the *Planter*; despite some, including the MCHA, restating that they were “cousins” without offering any more solid proof than “*it is said...*”⁵

As for HANNAH GROVER, she is even more elusive than her husband. JAMES GROVER III is the progenitor of this family branch and is thought to be about 23 years older than this HANNAH. It seems that HANNAH may have stayed in Chesham until shortly after her brother JAMES moved to Gravesend in 1646. HANNAH is documented in Gravesend from 1656 but probably moved there several years earlier and relocated to Hempstead upon marrying WILLIAM though there is the claim made by the MCHA that WILLIAM bought lot 4 in Gravesend on 2 September 1660 from JOHN THOMAS and he sold it to RICHARD STILLWELL on 9 September or 9 November 1663. To their credit, the MCHA does clearly state that WILLIAM LAWRENCE of Monmouth never had a wife named ELIZABETH SMITH, was not a sheriff on Long Island, and did not sail on the *Planter*.

LONG ISLAND: HEMPSTEAD AND MIDDELBURG

WILLIAM and HANNAH LAWRENCE probably lived at Hempstead; this is most commonly encountered in written works and there is evidence that a WILLIAM LAWRENCE was, indeed, in that village but the presence of another person with the same name in and around Hempstead makes most assertions of fact questionable. A WILLIAM LAWRENCE had a proprietorship right in Hempstead which he sold to ADAM MOTT, SENIOR prior to 1682 when MOTT devised his rights to his children.⁶ In a *List of Proprietors of Hempstead in 1647*, WILLIAM LAWRENCE is identified as the husband of ELIZABETH SMITH and younger brother of JOHN, another patentee.⁷ Many inhabitants of the Monmouth Patent came from Hempstead.

The 6,666 Dutch acre (13,332 acres) patent of WILLEM KIEFT for a *colonie* at *Mespeth Kill* to REVEREND FRANCIS DOUGHTY on 28 March 1642 included the authority to establish and govern

a town which became the village of *Maspeth* (the change in spelling was said to be deliberate). Maspeth was destroyed in an uprising of the indigenous population in 1643 and only a handful of the former residents ever returned. Nine years later a group of New Englanders with some of Hempstead's inhabitants obtained *permission*, but not a patent, from PETRUS STUYVESANT to establish an English town within the DOUGHTY patent. Called the *purchasers*, several had lived on the Connecticut shore and the LAWRENCE and COE were two of the leading families. They selected a parcel midway between Flushing and Mespeth Kill and immediately east of Maspeth. Lots were laid out and New England style cottages with thatched roofs were built in early 1652 but their location is disputed. RIKER in his *Annals of Newtown* place the earliest home lots on what is now Broadway near Dongan Street in the Elmhurst neighborhood of Queens. In 1908 the City History Club of New York published a description of their planned trip through historic Queens and the author states that the 1 to 2 acre lots on this site were used for pasturage only and did not have any buildings for nearly 100 years.⁸ He places the first houses about a half mile south on the north side of *Court Street*, now Justice Avenue; and on the south side of Hoffman Avenue. He subsequently contradicts his first statement when he locates the first public building less than a block from the intersection of Broadway and Dongan. Wherever the houses were, they went up fast as they had moved in and their first harvest came in that same summer. They named the town *Middelburg*, after the capital of the Province of Zeeland in the United Provinces in recognition of that town's role in accepting refugees from England fleeing the religious persecution in that country (also recorded as *Middleburg*, *Middleborough* and *Middleborrow*). The *purchasers* did not pay any *imposts or taxes* to the central government for a 10 year period as established in the *Freedoms and Exemptions* of 1640. The inhabitants of *Middelborgh*, *Mespacht* and *Midwout* petitioned STUYVESANT for their allotment of hay land; he created a Commission on 13 May 1654 to allot *eight morgen of meadow* (16 acres) for each *twenty-five morgen of land* (52 acres) owned to each inhabitant of Dutch Long Island, *if possible*; meadowland east of Mespeth Kill was appropriated for Middelburg residents.⁹ Lacking the protection of a patent, the residents decided to buy the land remaining within the boundaries established in the DOUGHTY patent that had yet to be purchased from the sachems with the hope and belief that such a purchase would offer some legal protection against land-grabbing outsiders. To accomplish this, on 12 April 1656, each of the *purchasers* gave one shilling per acre owned; of the £68 16s 4d collected from the 55 *purchasers*, WILLIAM LAWRENCE paid 10s which would seem to indicate he owned 10 acres; he sold almost fifty acres in 1664. On that same date, some sources state a patent for *Middelburg Township* was issued by the Director-General but that document has not been found in available collections of documents. Middelburg had one public building that City Historical Club writer FRANK KELLY locates across a small lane from Saint James Church near the intersection of Broadway and Saint James Avenue. It served multiple functions: school, town hall, courthouse, church and parsonage, and, by 1661, it was in need of repairs. The town evicted the tenant through a lawsuit and as soon as the 1661 growing season ended in September, several people were hired to refurbish the building. One of those people was WILLIAM LAWRENCE who was employed *to cover the roof with a good coat of thatch, for forty-two guilders...* this may very well have been our ancestor. WILLIAM LAWRENCE of *Flushing* held high-level posts in that town and it would be odd for Middelburg to hire from out-of-town when every male knew how to thatch a roof.

In late 1662, the English villages on Long Island rebelled against the Dutch after news reached Middelburg and the others at the end of October that Charles II had sent a charter to Connecticut whose lands included the *islands adjacent*. This was taken to mean Long Island and

both the colony and many of the English residents of Dutch Long Island were anxious to finalize the transfer as quickly as possible. To this end some of the inhabitants, along with some from Hempstead and Jamaica, sent a petition to the court at Hartford asking for protection on 29 September 1663; WILLIAM'S is not among the 26 signatures. To honor the apparent change of nationality coming shortly, the residents of Middelburg decided that a name more in line with current events was wanted; WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR was successful in his bid for the English crown in 1066 after the killing of KING HAROLD at the *Battle of Hastings*. Satisfied with their choice, *Hastings, otherwise called Middelburg*, signed a *compact* on 4 February 1664 stating that they were subjects of CHARLES II, KING OF ENGLAND. All the residents of Middelburg, save four, took an *Oath of Allegiance* to CHARLES II; JAMES WAY, JONATHON HAZARD, SAMUEL MOORE and WILLIAM LAWRENCE *did not subscribe*. It is this act that identifies this WILLIAM our ancestor; the *other* WILLIAM LAWRENCE of *Flushing* actively promoted the revolt and secured the signatures to the *Oath* from area residents, including his own. For these mutinous acts, he was briefly jailed in New Amsterdam. The English took the colony from the Dutch in September 1664 and immediately embarked on designing a new structure for the government. A convention was held at Hempstead on 28 February 1665, with representatives from Hastings, at which it was determined to remake the province into a shire called *Yorkshire*. The shire was divided into 3 ridings with Hastings, Kings County and Staten Island being in the *West Riding*; Queens County minus Newtown made up the *North Riding* while the *East Riding* contained what is now Suffolk County. The town lost about two-thirds of its area when several out-plantations, including the Poor Bowery and Hell-Gate Neck, were transferred to a newly created township called the *New Towne Township*. New Town was a descriptive nickname for Middelburg/Hastings as a way to distinguish it from the old town of Maspeth; once adopted for the township, Hastings was dropped in favor of *Newtown*, eventually becoming its official name. Middelburg hung on for a number of years, most likely due to the number of deeds and warrants issued with that name. The *shire* system lasted until 1683 when it was supplanted by the *county* system.

GOVERNOR RICHARD NICOLLS issued a patent on 6 March 1666 which is said to duplicate, in the main, the 1656 one with the addition of some descriptions that clarify the boundaries, for Newtown; how this meshed with creation of the shire and Newtown Township containing about two-thirds of the land that was in Middelburg Township is not yet known. Middelburg was subsumed by Newtown, though the property rights of the inhabitants of Middelburg were confirmed.¹⁰ Faults within this patent were just one of the things that led to decades of legal actions as Newtown tried to hold onto its lands. An 1860 gazetteer states the 1666 NICOLLS'S patent confirmed the terms of a 1652 STUYVESANT patent but that does not appear to be correct, given the number of times after 1652 that the town tried to get a patent issued by STUYVESANT.¹¹ If any patent did exist it was declared void when the English could not find the original in the records of the Secretary of New Netherland. The land was, in part, sold to neighboring Bushwick and the rest to individuals.¹²

The *second* WILLIAM LAWRENCE mentioned above, the son of THOMAS LAWRENCE and JOAN ANTROBUS, is most well-known as one of the 1645 founders of *Vlissingen*, now Flushing, the town east of Middelburg. He is often conflated with our ancestor. He was appointed Magistrate for Flushing on 22 April 1655 and again on 25 March 1656.¹³ A list of the Freeholders of Newtown made in December 1666 does *not* contain his name but a list of the *patentees* of Newtown from the Nicoll's patent of 1666 that was made in 1704 supposedly does have the names *WILLIAM LAWRENCE and his wife ELIZABETH, of Hastings*; this is the only record known to this author that places him in Newtown. His older brother JOHN LAWRENCE is one of the original

inhabitants of the *Great Plains*, which was the area that would become Hempstead. This WILLIAM was in Flushing in 1670, 3 years after our ancestor moved to Middletown in Monmouth which helps to sort them out. Our ancestor WILLIAM was married to HANNAH GROVER the entire time he was on Long Island which helps as ELIZABETH is mentioned with her husband sometimes; HANNAH never appears in the records though.

Suffice it to say that this confusion of having more than one WILLIAM LAWRENCE did not end when our ancestor moved to New Jersey. In 1701 RICHARD COOTE, earl of Bellomont and governor of New York and Massachusetts, recommends *the honest understanding man* WILLIAM LAWRENCE of Newtown to a Council member. *MR. LAWRENCE has a good estate and must be distinguished by the place of his dwelling from another of the same name and surname, who has not so good a character.* Duly appointed to the Council, the *honest understanding man* is removed from the Council in 1706 for repeated infractions of the law including assault and riot.¹⁴

On 20 February 1664 a deed was recorded that has WILLIAM LAWRENCE selling 3 parcels to JAMES MILLES of James River in Virginia: a house and land in *Hastings* bounded east by house and land of JOHN FORMAN, west by house and land of JOHN COCKEREN, on north by meadows; forty acres of upland; and about seven acres in the Flushing Hill Meadow bounded northwest by meadow of MARY FISH, west by JAMES CRISSTE, and running to Flushing Creek. Witnesses were JOHN FORMAN and JOHN TOSHE. WILLIAM LAWRENCE retained possession until September 1664.¹⁵ The actual deed needs to be checked as the source includes the phrase *and ELIZABETH [--?--] his wife of Hastings* following WILLIAM'S name. Later records are clear that this is our ancestor who was married to HANNAH, not ELIZABETH, in 1664. Other records about this transaction give the name as stated in the deed as *Middleborough*.

WILLIAM does not appear on a list of the 67 Freeholders of Newtown dated 4 December 1666; this, combined with the September 1664 date to vacate his house, makes a strong case for saying our LAWRENCE ancestors left Middelburg by the end of 1664. The first transplants had arrived a year before; they were confronted there by Dutch authorities in December 1663 but they seem to have stayed in Monmouth. One unsettled decade in Middelburg was enough and WILLIAM looked over what options there were and, with several others from Hempstead, set their sites across the Lower Bay to the Province of East Jersey. A list of Monmouth County inhabitants states that several were *from Long Island*; in fact 9 of the original patentees of Hempstead and 3 others from that town, including WILLIAM LAWRENCE, are named as Monmouth residents in 1667. It appears that most of the 12 settlers from Hempstead were also among the earliest residents of Middletown. Hempstead provided a large minority of the early inhabitants to Monmouth while Newport, Rhode Island provided the majority.

MONMOUTH COUNTY, NJ

In the available records from Monmouth County, one finds several references to "WILLIAM LAWRENCE" which may or may not pertain to the subject. Those references that correlate chronologically are included herein and may, in fact, be correctly attributed. However, the reader is cautioned that much of the following, at this time, is only coincidental and not factual. This author has found this WILLIAM styled as *WILLIAM L. LAWRENCE I*, his son as *WILLIAM L. LAWRENCE, SENIOR* and the latter's son as *WILLIAM L. LAWRENCE, JUNIOR* by the MHCA. This style is retained for reasons of consistency and clarity only as it is wrong. The subject herein is WILLIAM *I.* LAWRENCE who designates himself as "*SENIOR*" on occasion; his son is WILLIAM *L.* LAWRENCE, SENIOR, who is, on occasion, named incorrectly by others as "*JUNIOR*" and his son,

WILLIAM L. LAWRENCE, JUNIOR is found as *III* in some records. In the contemporary records, it remains puzzling that no apparent attempt was made to correct these mistakes by any of the Williams involved, instead, opting for a passive stance when your name, as given, is wrong.

WILLIAM LAWRENCE is found among the original purchasers of land in Monmouth in 1667 and his name appears on a list of inhabitants that was made before the three year period specified in the Monmouth Patent had expired. On 30 December 1667 the Middletown Town Book records the original holders of the thirty-six town lots with WILLIAM receiving number 31 and out-lot number 28.¹⁶ On 4 January 1668 he recorded the following ear mark: *both eares slitt and the hinder partt cut off*. In December 1676 WILLIAM LAWRENCE *in right of self and sister HANNAH LAWRENCE* obtained a Warrant for 240 acres; another in 1678 for 360 acres *in right of original purchaser, for self, wife and son*. These two Warrants from the Proprietors confirm that WILLIAM was not an original patentee but did become one of the early investors – the original patentees received warrants for 500 acres, later patentees received warrants at 120 acres per person. A Survey recording 165 acres, in six parcels, in the *Popeler Field* in Middletown of the 240 acre Warrant was recorded in May 1677. That WILLIAM owned some meadow land is found in a patent to JOHN VAUGHN dated 10 January 1677 wherein VAUGHN'S 9 acres is situated between that belonging to JAMES GROVER to the east and WILLIAM LAWRENCE'S to the west. Recorded two days later is the Conveyance of a *Neck of land called Neiughohilosick* (Middletown) *bordered by the First, Second, and Third Hop Rivers from the Indians ARRACHAN, TASHETAKAN, and WAYMUTTON to WILLIAM LAWRENCE, SENIOR, Yeoman for ...several goods in value according to the English Estimation the sum of Sixteen pounds sterling...* A Warrant to WILLIAM LAWRENCE *in Right of himself, his wife and his son*, totaling 360 acres in Middletown was recorded 2 September 1678.¹⁷

1685 was a year of land transaction recordings: on 6 January WILLIAM received a Conveyance from the East Jersey Proprietors for a tract on Hopp River; he filed a Survey for 420 acres on a neck of land north and south of Hopp River in Middletown on 30 April, referring a Warrant for 420 acres filed on 30 June; he received a Warrant on 9 July for 500 acres in *Manisquan* on the *petition of DAVID MUDY* which was followed by a Survey for six parcels along the Manisquan River which was confirmed by two Conveyances of $\frac{1}{5}$ of $\frac{1}{4}$ of $\frac{1}{24}$ of East New Jersey by DAVID MUDY on 14 and 15 August.¹⁸

Multiple land records for 1690 involve WILLIAM AND JAMES JOHNSTON. Three Conveyances from JAMES to WILLIAM are dated 7 March, though the last of these bears the year 1691, it is most likely old style and thus 1690; three are recorded 10 July; another on 11 August. Most have no location but some specify Barnegat. The earliest Survey is for 100 acres by WILLIAM *in Right of JAMES JOHNSTON about a mile above the Mouth of the Matekunck River at a Cove that Joins the river* based on a Warrant from 20 May. A second Survey of 270 acres in two tracts, in *Barnegate, Upland on the Beach, bordering Great and Little Cedar Swamp and along Raly Creek; including Islands opposite* was recorded that same date for WILLIAM, *in his own right, and other parts he has bought from JAMES JOHNSTON, and JOHNSTON bought of DOCTOR WILLIAM ROBINSON*.¹⁹ Additionally there are Conveyances in Barnegat to WILLIAM from JOHN LEONARD on 29 November 1690, from JOHN REID on 6 March 1691, one from the Proprietors for land south of Manasquan River on 19 January 1692; and one from GEORGE WILLOCKS on 18 August 1692.²⁰

Monmouth County was organized into municipalities with the formation of the 3 original townships: Middletown, Freehold and Shrewsbury, in 1693. Freehold was the western township,

Shrewsbury extended from the south bank of the Navesink River all the way to the southern tip of what is today Ocean County while Middletown covered the whole of the northern part of the county from the north bank of the Navesink River to Raritan Bay. Its western edge bordered Middlesex County and Freehold Township. The northwest section of Middletown Township was called *Waackaack* after the Leni-Kenape *Wakioak* meaning *land of plenty*. In 1854 *Waackaack*, later called Granville, was split between Raritan Township and the Keansburg section of Middletown Township.

HANNAH GROVER was Baptist as was her father and explains their Baptisttown location. Many report that her husband was of the same religion but a credible source maintains otherwise.²¹ The second WILLIAM discussed earlier *was* a Baptist, which makes it difficult to come to a conclusion. Many Baptists initially settled a few miles west of Middletown at a place that became Baptisttown. This town was situated at the crossroads of the road from Shrewsbury to Cranberry and the road from Monmouth Courthouse to Middletown. It was here that the *Meeting House* for the Baptist Church was built in 1688. It is claimed that the site was more easily accessible to church members who lived over a large area stretching inland to Upper Freehold and south to Jacobstown and beyond. The next closest churches were in Manhattan to the north and Philadelphia to the south (the Conhansey Baptist Church in Fenwick's Colony was even further away). But the reasons given for building Middletown at *its* location – the ease of access because three major Native American trails intersected there – may belie the real reason for building the church where it was built – most of the Baptists lived there! There was a significant enough number of co-religionists in Middletown that a second *Meeting House* may have been built there a few years later; others maintain it was Middletown's City Hall that was built and the local Baptists used this structure until 1732.²² The original one became the *Upper Meeting House* while that in Middletown was the *Lower Meeting House*. *Upper* and *Lower* are terms usually used in relation to a position along a river, brook or creek; perhaps in this case it refers to the location on the Navesink River. The *Upper Meeting House* was built on land that WILLIAM LAWRENCE sold to the Baptist minister JOHN BRAY in 1688. This could reflect the Conveyance of land on Hop River he received on the 10th of August in that year from Robert Barclay. The 1688 sale by WILLIAM LAWRENCE to JOHN BRAY was said by some to be in preparation for a move to Upper Freehold, being the only mention found of any such move so far.²³ Records indicate the presence of WILLIAM LAWRENCE in Middletown as late as 1700 when he wrote in his last Will and Testament that he was from Middletown. The eventual naming of the church as the Middletown Baptist Church have led many to incorrectly conclude that the Middletown village church was the earliest; the mistake comes from failing to know that the origin of the name lies with it being located in the township of that name, not the village.²⁴

Some years after the *Lower Meeting House* was built, it was decided that a new *Upper Meeting House* was needed as the original one was over 15 years old. REVEREND BRAY donated more land from the LAWRENCE tract and the third Middletown church building was built in 1705. Thus, while this author has often seen it written that WILLIAM LAWRENCE donated the land to the Baptist Church for its 1st and 3rd buildings, this is not quite correct; true, the land *was* donated and it belonged to WILLIAM LAWRENCE at one time but WILLIAM did not donate the land, he sold it to the minister who then donated it to the church. The dual nature of the *Middletown Baptist Church*, an older *Upper Meeting House* at Baptisttown and a slightly younger *Lower Meeting House* in Middletown, continued until 1836 when the *Upper Meeting House* became the *Second Middletown Baptist Church*; 13 years later it was renamed the *Holmdel Baptist Church*. Baptisttown had long-since given up that name as a second town of that name had led to

confusion. Before becoming Holmdel officially in 1830 it was the original Freehold in Monmouth County during the late 18th century at a time when the town we know as Freehold was Monmouth Courthouse, being established as the judicial center in 1719.²⁵ When the name Freehold is found in records from the 17th and 18th centuries, it referred to either the town of Holmdel as we know it or, more commonly, a much larger area embracing all of Holmdel and Marlboro Townships.

As early as 1676 a WILLIAM LAWRENCE supposedly bought a 1,000 acre tract at Cohansey (now Greenwich in Cumberland County) through his agent, ANTHONY PAGE, also one of the Middletown Patentees, but substantiating documents have yet to be found. This purchase dates from the time of Fenwick's Colony. COLONEL JOHN FENWICK came to own one-tenth of the Province of West New Jersey in 1674 after much legal wrangling. During the summer of 1675 he signed *articles of agreement* with some thirty-odd *adventurers* and designated as a Proprietor anyone buying at least one thousand acres. FENWICK's venture collapsed the following year and was taken over by his trustees who, in combination with the owners of the other 90% of West Jersey created a joint-stock company. They issued 100 shares or proprietries valued at £350 each which entitled the holder to a $\frac{1}{100}$ share of the province. The first dividend was stipulated at 5,000 acres per share; if we assume an equal exchange, then WILLIAM's 1,000 acres equaled a $\frac{1}{5}$ share. Three more dividends were distributed by 1714 by which time a share yielded 16,500 acres to the owner, or 3,300 acres for WILLIAM's $\frac{1}{5}$ share. WILLIAM's name does not appear in a 1685 account of the one hundred shares by THOMAS BUDD.²⁶ Several Middletown residents owned tracts near Cohansey and it is believed that the presence of two of the earliest Baptist churches in the future state, one at Cohansey and the other at Middleton, was the link between the two areas. Once again, we can not be certain which WILLIAM LAWRENCE was involved.

WILLIAM and HANNAH settled on the banks of the Hopp River where WILLIAM built a fulling mill for the manufacture of linen. He also had a fruit orchard of some type. Hopp River is now Hopp Brook and it runs in a north-south orientation and is located between Middletown and Baptisttown. It is also named in records as the Mill River and the Romanis River (aka Ramnesson and Navesink) – the farm on Hopp River was named Ramnesson. They owned the aforementioned Middletown tract and the Hopp River tract. WILLIAM is found in a list of residents, under the *townshipmen* classification, that are not current in their accounts to run the government drawn up on 6 July 1670 by the *Patentees & Deputies* at Portland Point.²⁷

On 3 December 1670, the Middletown Town Book records that JAMES MILLS, a former ship mater and living in James River, Virginia, and WILLIAM LAWRENCE declared a former sale of land to be void. JAMES had received a bill of sale for a house and land at *Middleborough*, where WILLIAM had lived on Long Island; the actual bill had been *casually burnt* and both posted notice that any bill of sale of any tenor or date, are void; thus WILLIAM retained ownership. This was the sale recorded on 20 February 1664 in what was then the West Riding. This property is not mentioned in his Will of 1701 and there is mention of a transfer of land in Middelburg from WILLIAM LAWRENCE to GEORGE WOOD.

CIVIC DUTIES

On 14 December 1667 WILLIAM LAWRENCE and JONATHON HOLMES were chosen as *Overseers of Middletown*; WILLIAM may have been reappointed to this post in 1670, which he held on 6 November, and into 1671.²⁸ This election was probably done during a general

assembly of Monmouth patentees and deputies; the first such assembly was held on 4 June 1667 at Portland Point where one of their actions was to confirm or choose overseers for each town; they would continue to meet as a body until 1670. The Monmouth assembly for December met at Narumsunk Neck at Shrewsbury; the province's first General Assembly wasn't held until May 1668 at Elizabeth Towne. *Overseers* were responsible for collecting the township (or county) taxes levied by the Justice of the Peace and the office was usually specific: *Overseer of the Poor* or *of the Highway*. On 22 July 1668 Middletown appointed RICHARD GIBBINS, RICHARD STOUT, WILLIAM LAWRENCE and JONATHON HOLMES to come to an agreement with ROBERT JONES of New York for the operation of the town's grain mill. JONES had received lot number 33 together with 10 acres of upland and the water stream where the mill is located for operation. The agreement that was reached included the following:

- (1) 300 guilders paid in sewant
- (2) The taking of timber for Jones house and mill
- (3) His use of a share of the town land, lot # 33, for a mill in good repair
- (4) 10 acres of upland next to the mill together with the water stream where the mill is located
- (5) Help received in raising the buildings when they were framed and
- (6) The twelfth bushel tolle

All of which was granted to JONES in consideration of building and maintaining the mill for the town's use, with the provision that all the land must be kept with the mill and no part or parcel could be sold separately.²⁹ In February 1669 at a Middletown town meeting WILLIAM LAWRENCE was appointed one of six agents appointed to answer how it was that the Navesink towns were exempted from paying quitrents; the town clerk EDWARD TART was another of the agents. Middletown and Shrewsbury repudiated the results of the deputy elections for the May 1668 session. Those deputies were JOHN BOWNE and JAMES GROVER – they both represented Middletown and Shrewsbury and had two votes each in the Assembly. The reason for the repudiation is that the deputies voted for certain taxes which gave a tacit approval of the supremacy of the Lords Proprietors over NICOLLS which could invalidate the Monmouth Patent. The deputies elected to the November meeting were instructed to inform the governor and his council that Middletown's resolution was *neither contempt nor obstinacy, nor willful on our parts*; the election simply had not been legal. The repudiation, coming just prior to the November 1668 General Assembly, also invalidated their actions including their vote in support of the £5 tax on each township. These deputies were forbidden to take any oaths which violated the Monmouth Patent – such as the oath of allegiance to the Proprietors which was required of all deputies. The Governor and his council ejected the deputies from the Assembly and two envoys were sent to enforce compliance or seize property of equal value. Middletown responded by making it an offense to refuse aid to any resident resisting seizure of their property with a fine of £5. Middletown's agents declared that such a tax violated the terms of the Monmouth Patent issued by NICOLLS and, if allowed to stand, created a breach of the terms of their patent. They also stated that PHILIP CARTERET would be accepted as governor only as long as their rights under the Monmouth patent were guaranteed and safeguarded. The answer was rejected.

WILLIAM was elected as *Deputy* to the Assembly in 1669 and 1673 and served in the capacity as *Constable* for Middletown beginning 20 May 1671.³⁰ Some maintain he held this position until he refused it in 1675. On 30 September 1671, he and EDWARD TARTT were elected *Burgesses* to the General Assembly opening in Elizabeth Towne on 3 October. On 10 November, he asked to be excused from the adjournment of the Assembly, which was granted, RICHARD

STOUTT going in his stead. A WILLIAM LAWRENCE signed the Inventory of the estate of MICHAEL SMITH on 19 June 1685; this could be the father or the son.³¹

Twenty years later, *WILLIAM LAWRENCE, SENIOR* and *JAMES GROVER, SENIOR* were appointed *Overseers of the Poor* during the Shrewsbury Court Sessions of September 1691. This *JAMES GROVER, SENIOR* is a mystery as the ancestor bearing this name who lived in the area was dead by 1691. A WILLIAM LAWRENCE, JUNIOR was appointed a *Commissioner of Highways* in 1693 and the boundaries of Middletown Township as described in that same year make mention of WILLIAM LAWRENCE'S land "on Hop River" which was also known as Mill Brook.³² A WILLIAM LAWRENCE "*of Hackensack*" was elected speaker of the Assembly in 1693 but this would seem to be someone else.³³ Between October 1697 and January 1698 WILLIAM LAWRENCE served as the town clerk for Middletown; his son WILLIAM LAWRENCE, JUNIOR was appointed to the post in January 1698. By 1701 the inhabitants of East Jersey were so tired of the ineffectual government of the Governors and Deputy Governors sent by the Lord Proprietors in London, several prominent persons sent a Remonstrance to KING WILLIAM IV in June 1700 seeking redress of their complaints; one of those persons was WILLIAM LAWRENCE. Not satisfied with the results they, and more, inhabitants petitioned the King of England to take the government under the government of the King. WILLIAM LAWRENCE, SENIOR, WILLIAM LAWRENCE, JUNIOR, JOHN LAWRENCE, JAMES LAWRENCE, and BENJAMIN LAWRENCE signed the petition which was sent to the Secretary of the Lords Justices on 17 July 1701.³⁴ *MR. WILLIAM LAWRENCE of Freehold* was nominated as an alternate to the Governors Council of New Jersey by letter from DAVID FINCH, *Earl of Nottingham* (1647 – 1730) who held the Cabinet post of *Secretary of State for the Southern Department*, whose jurisdiction included the American colonies, that was received on 12 August 1702 while WILLIAM LAWRENCE, JUNIOR was nominated by the *Earl* in a letter received at Whitehall on 4 August 1702.³⁵

As if it wasn't bad enough to have two men named WILLIAM LAWRENCE from Saint Albans, England moving to two towns in Dutch Long Island then moving to Monmouth County and both having wives named ELIZABETH at some point ... we find two men named WILLIAM LAWRENCE living in or near Middletown with wives named HANNAH! One is our subject and his wife was HANNAH GROVER. The second WILLIAM LAWRENCE was married to HANNAH TOWNSEND. Evidence indicates that both men named WILLIAM LAWRENCE outlived their wives named HANNAH (one GROVER and the other TOWNSEND) and married again. It is possible that the "other" WILLIAM LAWRENCE from Long Island who was married to ELIZABETH SMITH is also the WILLIAM LAWRENCE that married HANNAH TOWNSEND but this would be new information to all those that have researched the LAWRENCE family. However many researchers have arbitrarily decided that TOWNSEND and not GROVER is the correct surname of our ancestor; this does not conform to this author's research.

On the 26th of December in 1694 *WILLIAM LAWRENCE SENIOR* signed three *deed polls* transferring property to his sons WILLIAM LAWRENCE JUNIOR, JOSEPH LAWRENCE, AND JOHN LAWRENCE. Most of the tracts concern land called the *Manasquan Company* that his son ELISHA was heavily involved with. The first transaction is to his son WILLIAM for three tracts in Middletown Township and cost the son £17. The tracts were bought by WILLIAM from ROBERT BARCLAY through his attorney JOHN REID by *Indenture* dated 10 August 1688, and by a *Patent* dated 5 January 1685 and *another instrument* dated 10 January 1692; they are: (1) a 100-acre tract on the south bank of the Hopp River *by the Burlington Path*; (2) in town on the north side of Hopp River and bounded by the aforesaid 100-acre tract; and (3) the southern half of a tract lying along the Manasquan River and *the beach on ye sea side*. The second deed poll was to his son

JOSEPH of Shrewsbury and cost him *a competent sum of money*. WILLIAM owned these parcels by a patent, deed or conveyance dated 19 January 1692 from the East Jersey Proprietors and *signed by the Governor and the major part of his Council for the time being and such of the Proprietors and proxies that reside in the County*. This hints at the turmoil in the governance of the province; since one never knew who was actually in charge, it was better to get as many signatures as possible. The tracts were (1) one-half of a 5-acre tract on south side of the Manasquan River, east of RICHARD HARTSHORNE'S land; (2) one-half of the land and meadow bounded on the north and south by RICHARD HARTSHORNE'S land and by the Sea; (3) 180 acres, *with allowances*, on the north side of the Manasquan River bounded by a highway on the northwest and lying east of *another tract*; and (4) another tract of *land and meadow* containing 60 acres with allowances on the north side of the Manasquan River bounded as the last tract; all together these 4 tracts contain 191.5 acres. It states that WILLIAM will, for the next 7 years, defend the right of ownership of these tracts to anyone *upon reasonable request, cost and charges ... for the further, better, and more perfect asurance, surety, sure making + conveying* of all these tracts. The third deed poll is for his son JOHN, of Shrewsbury cost £10 and was for several tracts WILLIAM received by *Patent or Conveyance*, dated 19 January 1692, from *the Proprietors of the said Province*; included were: (1) 78 acres on the sea and the Manasquan River with a highway to the west ; (2) the other half of the 5-acre tract on the Manasquan River, east of RICHARD HARTSHORNE'S land; (3) 39 acres in the same area as the previous track but being south of RICHARD HARTSHORNE'S property; (4) a tract on the north side of the Manasquan River lying opposite of RICHARD HARTSHORNE'S property and running to a brook about 800' to 1,000' to the north; (5) 60 acres *to remain with for allowance of barrens* on the north side of Manasquan River, bounded by the sea on the southeast and the highway on the northwest; all together the 5 parcels total 269.5 acres. It continues stating that any rents due the Proprietors have been *excepted* in the above-mentioned deed of conveyance and it contains the same 7-year defense of ownership clause as the previous one. His sons not named as the grantee served as two of the four witnesses on that deed.³⁶ Deed polls are used instead of a deed of conveyance or an indenture when the seller does not guarantee they have the right to sell the property in the deed but, in case they do have that right, they want it recorded that they have sold that right. Reading these three deeds, it is clear they are written to prevent the very real possibility that some recognized government in the future will disallow not only WILLIAM'S original conveyances but also these three as well. By not stating, as is done in other types of deeds, that he actually owns the property and has the right to sell it, he states by what right he is selling it, removing himself from the possibility of being charged with fraud.

On 22 December 1700 WILLIAM LAWRENCE *of Midletown* and *holder of ¹/₂₀ of ¹/₂₄ share* of East New Jersey received 250 acres in eight parcels as his Second Proprietary Dividend. The listing of the eight parcels totals 252 acres, with the second parcel contained a 15-acre tract east of Wakake Creek and two on the west side of the Creek which runs north of Baptisttown through Raritan Township and into Raritan Bay. This may be his last recorded land transactions as all the others for WILLIAM LAWRENCE occur after his death and none are bear the designation *SENIOR*. The eight parcels were:

- 10 acres west of Wakake Creek
- 15 acres of meadow east of Wakake creek and 2 acres of "*sedgebanks*" west of Wakake creek
- 17 acres of upland west of Wakake creek
- 36 acres on the Manasquan River below Stony Point
- 40 acres between Rock Pond and the sea

- 47 acres being “*all the sedgebanks*” of the Manasquan River to the sea
- 70 acres south of Manasquan River below Hartshorn’s Island to the sea
- 15 acres on branch of Leonard’s sawmill brook “*called Mirry Bog Brook*”³⁷

HANNAH (GROVER) LAWRENCE died before 1693 as WILLIAM married second ELIZABETH SCUDDER (born ~1648, Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts) in that year. She was the daughter of JOHN SCUDDER (born 1619) and MARY KING. ELIZABETH had married JOHN ALBURTUS (born 1643, died April 1691; son of PETER CESAR ALBURTUS of Venice, Italy and JUDITH JANS MEYNIE of Amsterdam) in Middelburg, Long Island around 1666; owned a *large estate* at English Kills. Both JOHN SCUDDER and JOHN ALBURTUS were living in Newtown in December 1666. ELIZABETH and JOHN had 3 sons and 2 daughters, including MEHETABLE ALBURTUS who married WILLIAM and HANNAH’S son JAMES LAWRENCE.³⁸

On 26 March 1695 WILLIAM became guardian to the seven children of his daughter *HANAH LEONARD late Wife of the said JOSEPH GROVER deceased* when his petition was ordered by the Court of sessions for Monmouth County and the separate petitions of MARY and JAMES GROVER were ordered.³⁹ HANNAH had just married for a second time, to WILLIAM WINTER, and the peculiarities in the law must have necessitated this filing.

WILLIAM LAWRENCE witnessed the signing of the Will of THOMAS POTTER of Freehold on 1 November 1704 and signed a similar statement before the Burlington County Surrogate, THOMAS REVELL on 9 November 1704.⁴⁰ Whether this was the father of the son is not clear.

The *Last Will & Testament of WILLIAM LAUARENCE, SINOUR of Middeltown being of A Sound mind* bears the date 3 December 1701.⁴¹

[Gives] unto My loving wife ELIZABETH LAURANCE Deuering her Naturall life fortrey Acers of land with my Dwelling House Barne orchard being comprehended within the Said fortrey Acers beginning at my Sonn JAMES LAURANCE line at the hopp river and So Along up the said hopp or Mill river till A straight line from the Said river will take in the number of Afore Said fortrey Acers of land...

To My loving wife all of the Household goods or furniture that I had with her when I Maryed her;

To My loving wife two coves

Unto my sonn JAMES LAURANCE and his heires After the death of My wife ELIZABETH LAURANCE All the Afore Said fortrey Acers of land with the Houseng And orchard.

Unto my sonn JAMES LAURANCE and his heires tenn Acers of land lying on the South Side of the hopp river and Joyning to his Fulling mill and to be taken up or laid out as my sonn JAMES shall se cause the laying of it out square to say equall sides.

Unto My grand daughter DEBEROWH GROVER and her heires Thirty Acers of land beginning at the hopp or Mill river and joyning to the fortrey Acers of land I have given my Sonn JAMES LAURANCE and from thence Along or up the said Hopp or Mill river twenty five rodde and thence as Maney rodde in length as will contane the number of thirty Acers, being Twenty five rodde broad at both ends;

To my grand daughter DEBEROWH GROVER one Cow;

Unto My Sonn WILLIAM LAURANCE & his heires Two Thirds of All the Remainder of My land Joyning to My sonn WILLIAM land and my sonn BENJAMIN land;

Unto my Sonn BENJAMIN LAURANCE and his heires one third part of the Remainder of My land Joyning to My sonn WILLIAM land and my sonn BENJAMIN land; to say that After me sonn WILLIAM haith Two Thirds my sonn BENJAMIN and his heires shall have all the remander and that My executors will lay out the two Thirds of the land as convenient as they can to my son WILLIAM with as littell damage to my sonn BENJAMIN as can conveniently be;

Unto my sonn ELISHA LAURANCE and his heires all that My tract of land esteemed Att one hundred Acers excepting Alwayes the tenn Acers giving to my sonn JAMES LAURANCE joining to his Fulling mill which land lyes on the south side of the hopp river neare to LIVIES MORRIS land;

Unto my sonn WILLIAM LAURANCE and his heires and unto my Sonn ELISHA LAURANCE and his heires and unto my sonn JOHN to him and his heires and unto my sonn BENJAMIN and his heires and unto my Sonn JAMES LAURANCE and his heires and unto my sonn JOSEPH LAURANCE and his heires and unto My Grand sonn JAMES GROVER and his heires All My land at Barnygatt beach equally to be devided betwixt them seven and not to give it them in Joynt Tenency but if Aney of them dyes there heires shall Inheritt there Right;

Unto my sonn JOHN LAURANCE and his heires my tract of land esteemed at five hundred Acers lying at A place called Kettell point or Kettell creeke lying on the Mane side neare barnigatt bay;

Unto my sonn JOSEPH LAURANCE and his heires land of estemeation Three Hundred Acers lying at A place commonly knowne by the name of Mateteconke mew Barnigatt Beache;

Unto My six sonnes and there heires All Those Tracts of land taken upon the Account of the second Devision of My property To be Devided betwixt them According as each have caused it to be laid out And My six sonnes shall not hold the said lands in Joynt Tenency;

Unto my sonn ELISHA LAURANCE and his heires All My Right of My property and lands Rents that shall be Dew or belongs To My share of A property excepting What lands is Allredey taken up and given Away;

Unto my sonn BENJAMIN LAURANCE twenty-three hundreds of the money he oweth me;

Unto my sonn JOHN LAURANCE or release unto him the debt or Money he oweth me;

I release the debt or Money unto my sonn ELISHA LAURANCE he oweth me;

To my six sonnes afore named all My household goods or furniture equally to be Devided betwixt them excepting allwayes the Household goods given to my loving wife;

To my sonn JOSEPH LAURANCE The use of my negro boy named SHALLO for the

terme and time Thirtene yeares and upon condition he serves My sonn JOSEPH well then he be free;
To my grand sonn WILLIAM LAURANCE the sonn of WILLIAM LAURANCE one horse;
To my grand sonn WILLIAM LAURANCE the sonn of ELISHA LAURANCE one horse;
To my grand sonn my sonn JOHN'S eldest sonn one horse;
To my sonn JOSEPH'S eldest sonn one horse;
To my grand daughter ELIZABETH daughter of my sonn JAMES tenn shillings;
To my grand daughters MAREY GROVER, HANAH GROVER, ELIZEBETH GROVER, SUZANA GROVER, REBECKA GROVER to each of them a two yeare ould Hefer;
Remainder of estate Real and personall to my son ELISHA LAURANCE and My sonn JOSEPH LAURANCE and there heires.
I nominate my sonn WILLIAM LAURANCE and My sonn ELISHA LAURANCE My Executors

WILLIAM LAURANCE (his mark)

Witnesses: RICHARD HARTSHORNE
JOHN CLEVINGER
MARGREET HARTSHORNE
JOHN STOUT⁴²

Prior to writing this Will, six Conveyances of land to his sons were signed by WILLIAM on 15 July 1701: two to BENJAMIN (one was 100 acres on Hopp River), two to JOHN, one to ELISHA (10 acres of land and 15 acres of sedge and meadow on east side of Wakeke Creek), and one to JAMES.⁴³ The Will was proved by oath given on 22 May 1704 before THOMAS REVELL, Surrogate of Middletown by JOHN STOUT who witnessed the signatures of RICHARD HARTSHORNE, JOHN CLEVINGER and MARGREET HARTSHORNE as signators to the Will.⁴⁴ The Calendar of New Jersey Wills appends the following to the Will: land is specifically named as *farm on Hopp or Mill River* (also called Mill Brook) and *land at Barnegat*; states that *the sons seem to have already received share of real property*.⁴⁵ RICHARD HARTSHORNE and JOHN STOUT were probably lifelong friends of WILLIAM'S, having been among the first settlers of Middletown in 1667. He made bequests totaling 980 acres plus his land at Barnegat Bay. The bequest of *All Those Tracts of land taken upon the Account of the second Devision of My property* may actually be the Second Proprietary Dividend of 1698 which was for 5,000 acres. The *remaining land* which was divided between WILLIAM who got $\frac{2}{3}$ and BENJAMIN who got $\frac{1}{3}$ appears to be just two tracts – one adjacent to land owned by WILLIAM and a smaller one adjacent to land owned by BENJAMIN. An undated but *endorsed 1714* Inventory done by the Baptist Minister JOHN BRAY and GEORGE JOBB valued the estate at £319 11s 4d with over £115 coming from amounts owed to him by JOHN LAWRENCE, ELISHA LAWRENCE, BENJAMIN LAWRENCE, JOSEPH LAWRENCE, JAMES LAWRENCE, JOHN BOWNE, and BENJAMIN BORDEN.⁴⁶

According to NELSON, the descendants of WILLIAM and HANNAH LAWRENCE were Loyalists in the War for Independence but the facts speak otherwise. Loyalists were Tories who considered themselves loyal to the legitimate government as opposed to the rebels. However a

cursory review of records shows 13 males with the LAWRENCE surname serving in the Continental Army or New Jersey Militia while only 2 are found in the Royalist roles. [see list following “Issue”].

The first Baptist Church in the state remains open, but not as a Baptist Church; it is the *Holmdel United Church of Christ*. After being the first *Meeting House* for Monmouth County Baptists, it became the *Upper Meeting House* of the *Middletown Baptist Church* until 1836. After a 13 year run as the *Second Middletown Baptist Church* it became the *Holmdel Baptist Church* in 1849. On the road from Holmdel to Middletown, and not far from the Baptist Church was the *Dutch Reformed Church* which opened in 1699. The Old Dutch Cemetery remains to mark the location of the church. Due to declining congregations, the ministers of both churches were forced to resign in 1935. The boards of both churches got together and created *The Holmdel Church* which housed both churches (and which used both church buildings until the *Dutch Church* was razed) and was served, alternately, by ministers from other Churches. In 1953 a 3rd church – *The Community Church* – was added and in 1968 the *Baptist* and *Dutch* churches dissociated from their respective religions and all 3 churches, now independent, were able to consolidate and affiliate with the *United Church of Christ*.

Issue:

- 1) JAMES LAWRENCE: Married MEHETABLE ALBURTUS (b. circa 1678), daughter of JOHN ALBURTUS and ELIZABETH SCUDDER in Middletown; her mother was the second wife of WILLIAM LAWRENCE. He ran a fulling mill on the Hopp River and the mill and the 10 acres it was on was left to him by his father, in his 1701 Will. He sold the mill and land to his brother WILLIAM on 8 April 1709 (see below). On 5 February 1706 he, along with his brothers WILLIAM and BENJAMIN plus JAMES GROVER, OBADIAH BOWNE, GARRET WALL, GERSHOM MOTT, JAMES HUBBARD, JAMES COX, JOSEPH COX, OBADIAH HOMES, JOSEPH STOUT and DANIEL HENDRICKS bought from THOMAS COOPER, a London merchant, one full equal half propriety or 48th part minus 5,000 acres of first division and 86 acres of second division, plus 600 acres at Barnegat for 260. On the same date, in a second deed, the last named grantee, DANIEL HENDRICKS, buys out the other grantees and gets an additional 141 acres and the right to an additional 184 acres plus 21 acres of land and marsh at Barnegat.⁴⁷ WILLIAM would be one of the witnesses to the signing of the Will of DANIEL HENDRICKS on 16 November 1727. On 5 May 1714 an Indenture was recorded from DAVID STOUT to JAMES LAWRENCE.⁴⁸ He received four parcels of land in his father's will: the 40 acres set aside for the use of WILLIAM's widow ELIZABETH reverted to JAMES upon her death, 10 acres that adjoined his fulling mill, and a $\frac{1}{7}$ share of the Barnegat Bay land (6 sons and 1 grandson) and a $\frac{1}{6}$ share of *All Those Tracts of land taken upon the Account of the second Devision of My property* (6 sons). His Will was signed 6 March 1729 in Freehold and proved 7 April 1730.⁴⁹ Salter's History of Monmouth and Ocean Counties lists an additional unnamed son.
 - a) ELIZABETH LAWRENCE: born 23 Feb 1699; received a 10 shilling bequest in the 1701 will of her grandfather WILLIAM I. LAWRENCE.
 - b) JACOB LAWRENCE: 28 Jul 1703; Freehold, Monmouth Co., New Jersey
 - c) JOHN LAWRENCE: 14 Feb 1705; Freehold, Monmouth Co., New Jersey

- d) HANNAH LAWRENCE: 08 Jun 1710; Freehold, Monmouth Co., New Jersey
 - e) MARY LAWRENCE: 12 March 1712; Freehold, Monmouth Co., New Jersey
 - f) REBECCA LAWRENCE: 08 May 1715; Freehold, Monmouth Co., New Jersey
 - g) JAMES LAWRENCE: 28 December 1718; Freehold, Monmouth Co., New Jersey
 - i) “JAMES S. LAWRENCE, a grandson of JAMES LAWRENCE, was born at the homestead, Cream Ridge, and he was for many years a judge, also member of the Legislature, president of the Freehold Banking Co., &c. He died February 26, 1860, in his sixty-third year. He married first, MARY S., dau. of HENDRICK CONOVER, and second, PHEBE ANN, dau. Of NATHANIEL S. RUE, SR.” (Salter)
 - h) DEBORAH LAWRENCE: 15 August 1721; Freehold, Monmouth Co., New Jersey
- 2) WILLIAM L. LAWRENCE, SENIOR: may have been born in Middelburg on Long Island. On 20 July 1677 a patent was granted to “WILLIAM LAWRENCE JUNIOR of Midleton” for 165 acres in six parcels; the *JUNIOR* was added to identify him as owner in contrast to his father. After naming his own son WILLIAM L. LAWRENCE this WILLIAM began using *SENIOR*, albeit inconsistently. He married RUTH GIBBONS, daughter of RICHARD GIBBONS, on 24 June 1686 in Middletown, Monmouth County, NJ. He received a $\frac{1}{7}$ share of the Barnegat Bay land and a $\frac{1}{6}$ share of *All Those Tracts of land taken upon the Account of the second Devision of My property* plus a $\frac{2}{3}$ share of all remaining land belonging to his father according to the Will of 1701. This land adjoined land he already owned. He and RICHARD GARDINER proved the Will of *THERLAGH SWINEY of Middletowne* before JOHN HANCE, Justice at Shrewsbury on 12 March 1683 (*o.s.*) as attested to by his signature *WILLIAM LAWRENCE, JUNOR*.⁵⁰ On 19 January 1692 his father signed a *deed poll* in which one person, in this case WILLIAM SENIOR, transfers property to one or more other people, in this case WILLIAM JUNIOR. The three tracts cost the son £17 and are detailed above. In a deed poll from JOHN JOHNSTONE, dated 26 December 1706, he bought 261 acres of land *to be taken up, Surveyed + Returned + Patented* by him in the Eastern Division of New Jersey on for a competent sum of money.⁵¹ He bought 100 acres on Hopp River, originally a tract owned by his father who left it to BENJAMIN in his Will, bounded by the partition line between Middletown and Freehold Townships from his brother BENJAMIN on 29 March 1707 along with the one-third part of all the land he received in his father’s Will, for £300. (see below) He also bought the 30-acre tract on Hopp River that his father had left to his brother JOSEPH’s daughter DEBORAH from her and her husband THOMAS SHEPHERD on 15 September 1708 for £65. The following year WILLIAM bought the 10 acres with the fulling mill on Hopp River for £5 from his brother JAMES. JAMES had received it from their father in his 1701 Will.⁵² On 23 June 1709 WILLIAM paid his brother JOSEPH £50 for the tract of land *called Meteteqwonk* that was left to him in their father’s Will of 1701 (*see below*). This was a 300-acre tract on the Meteteconck River. WILLIAM bought the 580-acre *Buck hole Brook Bogg tract in Crosswicks*, with an annual 1 penny payment due on Michaelmas, the 29th of September, from his brother JOHN and his wife RACHEL LAWRENCE on 17 June 1710 for £380. This tract lies north of Imlaystown. On 26 March 1720 WILLIAM transferred 320 acres of this tract, without the 1 penny payment on Michaelmas, to his son RICHARD for *a competent sum of money* and he transferred the remaining 260 acres, also without the 1 penny payment on Michaelmas, to his son ROBERT for £10 on 11 December 1722.⁵³

WILLIAM was nominated to be a second guardian by his nephew JAMES GROVER in March 1695 at the same time the guardianship of the rest of the children of his sister HANNAH was

awarded to WILLIAM LAWRENCE SENIOR as related above. *WILLIAM LAWRENCE, JUNY* signed the Inventory for *THOMAS APLEGATE of Midletoune* on 8 September 1699 and another for *WILLIAM CHEESMAN of middletowne* on 15 September 1711. WILLIAM LAWRENCE replaced his father in the post of town clerk for Middletown in January 1698. WILLIAM and his brother JOHN, with 22 others, all stated residents of Hellsgate Neck, unsuccessfully petitioned the Governor, EDWARD VISCOUNT CORNBURY, on 11 May 1703 claiming that they, as property owners in Newtown, had the right to take up parcels in the common ground but other people from neighboring towns had illegally claimed sections of that common ground for themselves and were either still in possession or had sold the parcels.⁵⁴ Whether or not either brother actually did live in Hellsgate Neck, which is on the East River opposite Harlem, is unknown. A WILLIAM LAWRENCE was an elected member of the 3rd, 6th, 7th and 8th Provincial Assemblies (1707, 1710, 1716 and 1721 respectively).⁵⁵ It has not been determined if this was the same person or not. In September 1707 WILLIAM LAWRENCE appeared at the Court of Sessions in support of the minister JOHN BRAY; LAWRENCE is referred to as being a member of BRAY'S congregation.⁵⁶ He is one of four people who do an Inventory of BRAY'S estate, dated 21 February 1717, reciprocating the same service that BRAY did for WILLIAM'S father a few years earlier.⁵⁷ The merchant JOHN BOWNE II lived in Middletown where he had a store. He died circa 1715 and his estate was proved 11 April 1716. The Inventory by WILLIAM LAWRENCE, JOSEPH DORSETT, and JOHN and JARAT SCHANK was dated 9 April 1716 and lists 572 people who owed him money through bonds, mortgages, and store debt. A WILLIAM LAWRENCE owed over £44 for *book debt*, a reference to store credit; it is not certain if this person is the subject herein. WILLIAM also signed the Inventory for CAPTAIN ANDREW BOWNE'S widow ELIZABETH on 22 April 1715.⁵⁸ A WILLIAM LAWRENCE of Middletown witnessed the signing of the Will of KRYN JANSEN VAN METEREN of the same place on 26 April 1719. It is not certain if this was the father or son or another person of the same name, however unlikely.⁵⁹ A WILLIAM LAWRENCE sold twelve acres of land to JOHN BENNETT for 66£ on 11 August 1727. The tract is described as being that part of LAWRENCE'S plantation adjacent to one already owned by BENNETT and being between the road and land owned by C. JOHNSTONE on the far side of a brook.⁶⁰ RUTH died 7 October 1736 in Middletown. WILLIAM, being *in the eighty-fourth year of my age*, signed his Will on 20 FEBRUARY 1741. Bequests included twenty-six acres, *being part of Thomas Cooper's lot*, at Barnegat to grandson WILLIAM LAWRENCE, son of RICHARD LAWRENCE, deceased; one hundred acres on Hopp River to grandson WILLIAM LAWRENCE, son of JOHN LAWRENCE, deceased; eighty acres *adjoining PETER TILTON'S* to granddaughter JANE LAWRENCE, daughter of JOHN LAWRENCE, deceased; *half of Propriety Right and land near Metecunk, and large Concordance* to daughter ELIZABETH HARTSHORNE; *largest old Bible, surveyor's instruments and £5* to son THOMAS LAWRENCE; *next great Bible and land* to daughter HANNAH HERBERT; and 20 shillings to two eldest grandsons (not named). WILLIAM'S will was proven at Middletown on 22 November 1750.⁶¹ They had 8 children.⁶²

- a) WILLIAM L. LAWRENCE, JUNIOR: born 5 November 1688; died 1729; received a horse in the 1701 Will of WILLIAM I. LAWRENCE; was (Tax?) *Collector in Monmouth County*.⁶³ He married MERCY HARTSHORNE and had a farm on the north side of Mill Brook (Hopp River) and land *at Amboy* and a *fulling mill with lot* as indicated in his Last Will.⁶⁴ A WILLIAM LAWRENCE JUNIOR appears in the 1716 list of debtors to the estate of JOHN BOWNE II mentioned above, owing £2 15s for *book debt*. He signed his Will on 13 January 1728 and it was proved on 25 July 1729.⁶⁵ They had six children:

- i) MARY LAWRENCE
 - ii) MARGARET LAWRENCE
 - iii) CATHERINE LAWRENCE
 - iv) ELIZABETH LAWRENCE
 - v) WILLIAM LAWRENCE
 - vi) RICHARD LAWRENCE
 - b) ELIZABETH LAWRENCE: born 3 December 1690; married, as his third wife, on 18 July 1717 WILLIAM HARTSHORNE, son of RICHARD HARTSHORNE and MARGARET CARR; WILLIAM married (1) c1703 CATHERINE BOWNE, daughter of JAMES BOWNE and LYDIA HOLMES; she died 1712; married (2) 5 May 1713 HELENA WILLETT; she died 28 April 1715.⁶⁶ ELIZABETH received property from father as detailed above; died 18 April 1751.
 - c) ROBERT LAWRENCE: born 25 September 1692. Received from his father 260 acres of the *Buckhold Brook Bog* tract north of Imlaystown, without the required annual payment of 1 penny on Michaelmas, for £10, on 11 December 1722 (*see above*). This was the last of the original 600-acre tract that their uncles JOHN and ELISHA purchased with ELISHA buying 20 and JOHN buying 580. JOHN sold his 580 to WILLIAM and he split it between ROBERT and RICHARD with the latter getting 320 acres.
 - d) RICHARD LAWRENCE: born 11 July 1694. For a *competent sum of money* given to his father on 26 March 1720 he received 320 acres of the *Buckhold Brook Bog* tract north of Imlaystown, without the 1 penny payment on Michaelmas (*see above*). RICHARD died before February 1741.
 - i) WILLIAM LAWRENCE: received 36 acres at Barnegat from grandfather.
 - e) JOHN LAWRENCE: born 22 August 1696; died before February 1741.
 - i) WILLIAM LAWRENCE: received 100 acres on Hopp River from grandfather.
 - ii) JANE LAWRENCE: received 80 acres from grandfather.
 - f) MARY LAWRENCE: born 28 December 1698.
 - g) HANNAH LAWRENCE: born 1700; married in 1729 to OBADIAH HERBERT⁶⁷ (born c1677 in Middlesex County, NJ; son of FRANCIS HERBERT and HANNAH APPLIGATE) in Middletown. He received land and *next great Bible* from father as detailed above. OBADIAH died 5 May 1757 in Perth Amboy, Middlesex County. A HANNAH HERBERT and JAMES WHITLOCK received a marriage license in Monmouth County on 11 December 1769; this may be the same person.
 - i) JACOB HERBERT: born 1750, Middletown; married c1772 near Shrewsbury to ELIZABETH HANCE (born 1750).
 - h) THOMAS LAWRENCE: received *largest old Bible, surveyor's instruments and £5* from father. Died unmarried.
- 3) **HANNAH LAWRENCE:** may have received a 120 acre patent for land in 1676. She married **JOSEPH GROVER** (born circa 1653) about 1684 in Monmouth County, NJ. Their story is continued in a separate section.
- 4) **BENJAMIN LAWRENCE.** Wife unknown; received 3 tracts of land in father's Will: $\frac{1}{7}$ share of the Barnegat Bay land and a $\frac{1}{6}$ share of *All Those Tracts of land taken upon the Account of the second Devision of My property* plus a $\frac{1}{3}$ share of all remaining land. He sold a Middletown tract to his brother ELISHA in 1690. He bought 100 acres on Hopp River, bounded by the partition line between Middletown and Freehold Townships from his father

on 15 July 1701. This he sold for £300 to his brother WILLIAM on 29 March 1707 along with the one-third part of all the land he received in his father's Will.⁶⁸ On 2 October 1708 he obtained the rights to 54 acres, being his share of THOMAS COOPER's propriety, by a *Release* signed by 12 other purchasers including WILLIAM LAWRENCE and JAMES LAWRENCE. He sold this right on 5 October 1714 to SAMUEL TILTON for £5 8s. It was *Surveyed for SAMUEL TILTON in right of BENJAMIN LAWRENCE* by JOHN REID, Surveyor on 9 February 1714.⁶⁹ BENJAMIN's Will is dated 13 July 1748 in Upper Freehold, proved 16 May 1755.

- a) MARY LAWRENCE: Upper Freehold, Monmouth Co., New Jersey
- b) JOSEPH LAWRENCE: Upper Freehold, Monmouth Co., New Jersey
- c) ELIZABETH LAWRENCE: 18 July 1729; Upper Freehold, Monmouth Co., New Jersey

- 5) ELISHA LAWRENCE:⁷⁰ some researchers claim ELISHA was the second son; he is thought to have been born about 1666, married LUCY STOUT, daughter of RICHARD STOUT and FRANCES HEATH and granddaughter of RICHARD and PENELOPE STOUT. In 1685 he was a partner in the *Manasquan Company* who located lots on the Atlantic coast between Wreck Pond (now Sea Girt) and Barnegat Bay (see map right). In 1688 and 1690 ELISHA LAWRENCE obtained lots of land in Middletown, the first from the East Jersey Proprietors and the second from his brother BENJAMIN LAWRENCE. On 26 May 1690 he sold part of the salt meadow contained in the 1688 and 1690 purchases to JOHN THROCKMORTON; he sold an additional 3 acres of salt meadow on the Island to CAPTAIN SAFETY GROVER with the right to *stack hay on the Island*.⁷¹ In 1698 his father conveyed to him lots of land amounting to 123 acres. He also purchased in 1698 the 280 acres sold by JOHN CRAWFORD and his wife, ABIGAIL, when they moved to Cape May. On 15 July 1701 he received from his father 10 acres of land and 15 acres of sedge and meadow *on east side of Wakeke Creek* by a deed poll for *a competent sum of money*.⁷² He received 90 acres on the south side of the *hopp river* in his father's Will, plus $\frac{1}{7}$ share of the Barnegat Bay land and a $\frac{1}{6}$ share of *All Those Tracts of land taken upon the Account of the second Devision of My property*. ELISHA LAWRENCE then moved westward toward Upper Freehold and Crosswicks with other sons of the Middletown Patentees. Before 1708 he bought 20 acres of meadow *on the south side of the ditch* on the *Buckhole Brook Bogg* tract in Crosswicks (see below) or rather, near Crosswicks as it was north of Imlaystown. ELISHA and LUCY LAWRENCE sold the 1688 and 1690 Middletown tracks to EDWARD TAYLOR (II) on 24 December 1708 for £35 described as two hummocks, or mounds, of land at Shoal Harbor containing 20 acres, plus 8 acres of meadow, excepting out the two pieces of salt meadow previously sold to THROCKMORTON and GROVER.⁷³ On 19 November 1717 there is recorded an indenture between ELISHA and LUCY LAWRENCE of Freehold and THOMAS KEARNEY of Middletown for lands on the *Wakake Creek* within Middletown. This same date a deed records property being bought from CAPTAIN RICHARD SALTER of Freehold by ELISHA; this property was part of a 2,100 acre tract originally patented to JOHN BAKER on 24 May 1690. A village in Upper Freehold Township named Irish Mills was founded by an ELISHA LAWRENCE but it is not certain if this



is the same person. Now the town is VanHiseville in Jackson Township. ELISHA signed his Will on 14 April 1722 and it was proved in May of 1724.⁷⁴

- a) ELIZABETH LAWRENCE: 01 May 1692, Freehold; married JOHN SALTAR
- b) WILLIAM LAWRENCE: 05 January 1693, Freehold; received a horse in the 1701 Will of WILLIAM I. LAWRENCE but not in his father's Will of 1722.
- c) SARAH LAWRENCE: 20 January 1695, Upper Freehold; married JOHN FINLAY.
- d) HANNAH LAWRENCE: 10 December 1697, Upper Freehold; married RICHARD SALTER, II.
- e) JOHN LAWRENCE: 10 January 1699, Freehold; died young
- f) ELISHA LAWRENCE: born 5 August 1701, Freehold. He was bequeathed some of his father's Middletown property that adjoined RICHARD HARTSHORNE's land on Wakake Creek.⁷⁵ He sold that land and bought his father's Upper Freehold property, naming it *Chestnut Grove*.
 - i) WILLIAM LAWRENCE: settled in Middletown.
 - ii) JAMES LAWRENCE: along with brothers JOSEPH and JOHN, bought *Squan lots* on the Manasquan River and settled there.
 - iii) JOSEPH LAWRENCE: settled on the *Squan lots* on the Manasquan River.
 - iv) JOHN BROWN LAWRENCE: lived on a part of his father's *Chestnut Grove* tract that he named *Mulberry Hill*.
 - (1) JAMES LAWRENCE: Captain in the United States Navy during War of 1812, commander of the frigate *Chesapeake*, engaged the *Shannon* under command of a CAPTAIN BROKE on 1 June 1813. The *Chesapeake* was lost as was the life of her Captain.
 - (2) JOHN LAWRENCE, SENIOR: born 1709, died 1794; married MARY HARTSHORNE, daughter of WILLIAM HARTSHORNE the Surveyor of Monmouth County who ran the "Lawrence Line" dividing East and West New Jersey. Graduated from Princeton University, 1764, and received first medical degree in country, having graduated from the Medical College of Philadelphia in 1768, JOHN LAWRENCE was a notorious Tory. Arrested on 6 July 1777 in Perth Amboy by MAJOR DUYCKINCK under order of GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON and held in Trenton until 13 July when he was moved to Morristown. Relocated to New York City when allowed to leave state where he practiced medicine until 1783. Commander of local volunteer company for defense of New York. Returned to Upper Freehold after the war but did not practice. Died 29 April 1830 at Trenton, buried Old Yellow Meeting House.
 - (a) JOHN LAWRENCE, JUNIOR: born 1747.
 - (3) ELISHA LAWRENCE: was Sheriff of Monmouth County before and during the Revolution; on 9 November 1774, ELISHA LAWRENCE, High Sheriff of Monmouth and THRUNIS VANDERVER, JUNIOR of Freehold Township recorded an indenture for land belonging to the late PETER VANKIRK. He raised a corps of 500 men which he commanded in the Royalists Brigade. In 1777 he was taken prisoner by GENERAL SULLIVAN on Staten Island. After peace he left with the British Army with his rank of colonel and half-pay.
 - v) BENJAMIN LAWRENCE
 - g) JOSEPH LAWRENCE: 07 December 1704, Freehold
 - h) REBECCA LAWRENCE: 07 November 1706, Upper Freehold
 - i) JOHN LAWRENCE 28 January 1709, Freehold

- 6) JOSEPH LAWRENCE: received 3 tracts of land in father's Will: 300 acres at Barnegat Beach, $\frac{1}{7}$ share of the Barnegat Bay land and a $\frac{1}{6}$ share of *All Those Tracts of land taken upon the Account of the second Devision of My property*. According to that Will his eldest son was to receive a horse. JOSEPH also received SHALLO, his father's *negro boy*, which he was to free after 13 years, *i.e.* 1714. JOSEPH and his brother JOHN came to own the Manasquan lands that their father purchased from the Scotch Proprietors. On 23 June 1709 JOSEPH sold the tract of land *called Meteteqwonk* left to him in their father's Will of 1701 to his brother WILLIAM for £50. This was a 300-acre tract on the Meteteconck River. On 29 April 1712 JOSEPH, of Manasquan in Shrewsbury Township, purchased a sixty-fourth part of a propriety for £13 from GEORGE ALLEN. This entitled him to obtain *first Dividend land, second Dividend land, addition to second Dividend land*, and any future land from Dividends.⁷⁶ JOSEPH first married SARAH WORTH (born circa 1675, died before December 1710), daughter of WILLIAM WORTH and FAITH PATTERSON. JOSEPH, of Shrewsbury, Monmouth County, married second on 18 October 1712 the widow RACHEL CURTIS, of Burlington County, at the Friend's Meeting House in Chesterfield, Burlington County.⁷⁷ Witnesses included ELISHA, JAMES, HANNAH and ELIZABETH LAWRENCE *and others* (who are named in the actual records of the Chesterfield Monthly Meeting). The first 3 were likely JOSEPH's siblings while the fourth could have been his step-mother.

RACHEL WRIGHT had married DAVID CURTIS of Mansfield Township, Burlington County on 2 July 1697. DAVID died between 22 March 1707, the *old style* date of his Will, and 25 May 1708, the date his estate was inventoried. A *plantation of 308 acres* found in the inventory may refer to the lands at Barnegat beach mentioned later in JOSEPH's Will. Five children are named in DAVID's Will: JOHN, DAVID, THOMAS, SAMUEL and ANNE CURTIS and his *brothers* THOMAS CURTIS and SAMUEL WRIGHT (probably brother-in-law) are named as *supervisors*.⁷⁸ Some researchers have claimed that RACHEL was the daughter of THOMAS FOLKES, SENIOR but offer no evidence to support that claim; records indicate that THOMAS FOLKES, JUNIOR was married to ELIZABETH CURTIS, DAVID's sister and both were children of JOHN CURTIS who died in February 1696 from Mansfield Township; other children were JONATHON of England and THOMAS CURTIS, JUNIOR.

JOSEPH LAWRENCE, yeoman, of Manasquan signed his will in Shrewsbury on 23 June 1739. In that instrument he mentions his wife RACHEL, two of her sons and eight children from both marriages. To his wife's sons, JOHN and DAVID CURTISS, he bequeathed *part of the lands at Barnegat beach* which probably reflects the 308 acre plantation owned by their father; to his eight children was left his *Proprietary Right* and to his four youngest sons he left the *meadow on the beach this side the Great Hill against Matetakung River* was left to his four youngest sons. The inventory of the estate whose value was £38.9.3 was filed 25 April 1743 and the will was proved 12 May 1743.⁷⁹ While the birthdates of his children are not known, the appearance of an unnamed *eldest son* of JOSEPH found in the 1701 Will of JOSEPH's father usually indicates that said son, BENJAMIN, hadn't yet been born. JOSEPH's children by his first wife SARAH are:

- a) HANNAH LAWRENCE: born in Shrewsbury.
- b) WILLIAM LAWRENCE: born in Shrewsbury, probably after 1701; may have been the recipient of a horse according to terms of grandfather's Will.
- c) FAITH LAWRENCE: born in Shrewsbury, born circa 1704.
- d) JOSEPH LAWRENCE: born in Shrewsbury, born circa 1706.

- e) JAMES LAWRENCE: born in Shrewsbury, born circa 1708.
 - f) SARAH LAWRENCE: born in Shrewsbury, born circa 1710.
- JOSEPH's children by his second wife RACHEL are:
- g) BENJAMIN LAWRENCE: born in Shrewsbury. Thought to have served as a lieutenant in the Continental Army 1776 – 1780.
 - h) ELIJAH LAWRENCE: born in Shrewsbury. Thought to be quartermaster and colonel in NJ State Militia.
 - i) ELIJAH LAWRENCE, JUNIOR: major and lieutenant-colonel in NJ State Militia 1775 – 1777.
- 7) JOHN LAWRENCE: On 29 December 1694, he received the 5 parcels of land containing 269.5 acres from his father as mentioned above. He also received three tracts of land in father's Will: 500 acres at Kettell Poynt at Barnegat Bay, $\frac{1}{7}$ share of the Barnegat Bay land and a $\frac{1}{6}$ share of *All Those Tracts of land taken upon the Account of the second Devision of My property*. Associated with the Manasquan Company lands with his brother ELISHA as mentioned above. He and his brother WILLIAM tried to recover some land in Newtown in 1703 as mentioned above; they claimed it had been illegally taken from them. On 19 October 1708 he bought 600 acres *in Crosswicks*, minus 20 acres of meadow *on the south side of the ditch* previously sold to ELISHA LAWRENCE, for £300 from RICHARD and SARAH SALTAR. This tract was between *a Branch of Buck hole Brook Bogg* and *Cattail Brook one of the branches of Asennpink Creek* and crossed *Cattail Meadow*. Every year, *upon the feast of St. Michael the Arch Angle* (Michaelmas, 29 September), JOHN had to pay 1 penny as *an acknowledgment for said tract* to RICHARD SALTAR in years when it *shall be legally Demanded upon ye premises*. Buck Hole Brook runs through Imlaystown and Cattail Brook runs further north joining the Assunpink at *Cattail Village*, which has been New Sharon, as has the brook, for many decades. He sold this tract, with the annual 1 penny payment, to his brother WILLIAM on 17 June 1710 for £380 (see above). His Will of 4 April 1719 names his wife as RACHEL and seven children. From the wording in the Will, it appears that his daughter ELIZABETH has died, leaving a daughter RACHEL OKESON.⁸⁰
- a) JOHN LAWRENCE, JUNIOR: eldest son; bequeathed a horse by grandfather in 1701.
 - b) ELIZABETH LAWRENCE
 - c) GIBBONS LAWRENCE
 - d) BENJAMIN LAWRENCE.
 - e) CONSTANT LAWRENCE.
 - f) RACHEL LAWRENCE.
 - g) HANNAH LAWRENCE.
 - h) MARY LAWRENCE.
 - i) DORCAS LAWRENCE.

17 LAWRENCE males who are known to have participated in the Revolutionary War:

Royalist or Loyalist (Tories):

ELISHA LAWRENCE, born in 1740, sheriff of Monmouth at the "breaking out of the Revolution" (1775?). He raised a corps of 500 men which he commanded in the Royalists Brigade. In 1777 he was taken prisoner by GENERAL SULLIVAN on Staten Island. After peace he left with the British Army with his rank of colonel and half-pay;

THOMAS LAWRENCE of NJ joined the Royalists and was a Major in the British service.

Continental Army or New Jersey Militia

BENJAMIN LAWRENCE was a lieutenant in the Continental Army 1776 – 1780.

ELISHA LAWRENCE was quartermaster and colonel in NJ State Militia.

ELISHA LAWRENCE, JR: major and lieutenant-colonel in NJ State Militia 1775 – 1777.

DANIEL, JOHN, NATHANIEL and THOMAS LAWRENCE: privates in the Continental Army.

ABRAM, DANIEL, GEORGE, ISAAC, ISRAEL, JOHN, THOMAS and WILLIAM LAWRENCE were privates in NJ State Militia.

Endnotes

- ¹ The information contained herein is based on research performed by other genealogists and posted on the internet. None of the presented information has been verified by this author unless stated or referenced. Land transactions citations are from New Jersey Department of State Non-Governmental Records – East and West Jersey Proprietors database:
<http://www.nj.gov/state/archives/catpproprietors.html>
- ² William Nelson (ed), The New Jersey Coast in Three Centuries, Volume II, (Lewis Publishing, Co., NY, 1902) pages 205-207.
- ³ Jack Mount "MY LAWRENCE FAMILY ANCESTRAL LINE" <http://nostalgia.esmartkid.com/lawrence.html>
- ⁴ Henry Miller Cox, The Cox Family in America (New York, 1912) p. 157; Digital version available at Archive.org.
- ⁵ E.L.P., Monmouth County Historical Association "Genealogy Answers, 1293, Lawrence" *Monmouth Democrat*, p. 6, (c1940 date unknown, see pp. 65 – 66 of their Clayton – A Preliminary Study available on Ancestry.com).
- ⁶ Records of the Towns of North and South Hempstead Long Island, N.Y., Volume I; ed: Benjamin Hicks (Jamaica, NY: 1896) page 442.
- ⁷ Charles B. Moore. The Early History of Hempstead (NY: Trow's Printing and Bookbinding; 1879) pages 7 – 12.
- ⁸ Frank Bergen Kelly, "Excursion Planned for the City History Club of New York: Excursion XI: Historic Queens" (New York: City History Club of New York; 1908) page 22.
- ⁹ Fernow, New York State Colonial Documents, v. 14, Long Island 1630 – 1683 (1883) p. 260.
- ¹⁰ James Riker, Jr., The Annals of Newtown (New York: D. Fanshaw; 1852) pages 17 – 43, 52 – 53, 61 – 75, and 132 – 134.
- ¹¹ J. H. French, "Towns in Queens County, NY" in Gazetteer of the State of New York (1860); available online at:
<http://history.rays-place.com/ny/queens-towns.htm>
- ¹² E.B. O'Callaghan (ed) Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York. Volume 5: London Documents: XVII – XXIV, 1707 – 1733 (Albany: Weed, Parsons & Co; 1853) pages 111, 407.
- ¹³ Fernow, New York State Colonial Documents, v. 14, Long Island 1630 – 1683 (1883) pp. 314, 343.
- ¹⁴ E.B. O'Callaghan (ed) Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York. Volume 4: London Documents: IX – XVI, 1693 - 1706 (Albany: Weed, Parsons & Co; 1854) pages 834 – 835, 1178 – 1181.
- ¹⁵ Judith B. Cronk, "The Lawrence Family; Identifying Two Wives for the Early Lawrence Family of Monmouth Co., NJ", *The Monmouth Connection* (July 2001): page 58.
- ¹⁶ Henry Lawrence Everett, Old Middletown Town Book 1667 to 1700 (reprint; not dated) Most of the unreferenced land transactions, civil and military appointments, etc are from this source.
- ¹⁷ Edwin Salter, A History of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, (Bayonne, NJ: F. Gardner & Son, Publishers; 1890) which cites East Jersey Records, Liber No. 1 (1650-1678); General Board of Proprietors of the Eastern Division of New Jersey, Surveys and Warrants, 1675-1997: Liber II, Part 2, Folios 44, 66 (refers to Liber I. Folio 173), 89. Department of State Secretary of State's Office Deeds, Surveys and Commissions, ca. 1650-1856: 1, Folio 235 (mentions Book I, Part B, p. 104).
- ¹⁸ Department of State Secretary of State's Office Deeds, Surveys and Commissions, ca. 1650-1856: A, Folios 223, 281 and 302; General Board of Proprietors of the Eastern Division of New Jersey, Surveys and Warrants, 1675-1997: L (EJ), Folios 24, 26, 43 and 55.
- ¹⁹ General Board of Proprietors of the Eastern Division of New Jersey, Surveys and Warrants, 1675-1997: O (EJ), Folios 53, 73,; Department of State Secretary of State's Office Deeds, Surveys and Commissions, ca. 1650-1856: D (EJ), Folios 180 – 182, 274, 275; E (EJ), Folio 325; G, Folio 9.
- ²⁰ Department of State Secretary of State's Office Deeds, Surveys and Commissions, ca. 1650-1856: D (EJ), Folio 273; E (EJ), Folios 24, 384, 388.
- ²¹ Thomas S Griffiths, A History of Baptists in New Jersey (Bar Press Publishing Company: Hightstown, NJ; 1904) p.17.
- ²² *Ibid*, Griffiths, A History of Baptists in New Jersey; p.15.
- ²³ *op.cit* Salter, A History of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, pp.20-23, 210. Department of State Secretary of State's Office Deeds, Surveys and Commissions, ca. 1650-1856: A, Folio 437.
- ²⁴ *op.cit*. Griffiths, A History of Baptists in New Jersey; p. 26.
- ²⁵ *op.cit*. Griffiths, A History of Baptists in New Jersey; pp.15-17. The New Jersey Historical Society website maintains that Freehold was the first name, followed by Baptisttown, then Holmdel but this does not find support in records and maps.

- ²⁶ John E. Pomfret, The Province of West New Jersey, 1609 – 1702 (Princeton, 1956) has a list of the purchasers in the Appendix on pages 285 – 289.
- ²⁷ Monmouth County Deeds, Book A, pages 34, 35.
- ²⁸ Lawrence Buckley Thomas, The Thomas Book, (NY: Henry T Thomas Company, 1896) page 396.
- ²⁹ *op.cit.* Nelson, The New Jersey Coast in Three Centuries
- ³⁰ See note 3 Jack Mount
- ³¹ John E. Stillwell, Historical and Genealogical Miscellany Volume VI: Unrecorded Wills and Inventories Monmouth County New Jersey (reprint Shrewsbury Historical Society; 1975) p.71. Digital copy available through FamilySearch.com.
- ³² Edwin Salter and George C. Beekman, Old Times in Old Monmouth, (Freehold, NJ) 1887 (reprinted Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1980) pages (in order of item) 199, 216, 254, 169 and 168.
- ³³ John E. Pomfret, Colonial New Jersey – A History (Charles Scribner's Sons, NY; 1973) p. 68.
- ³⁴ William A. Whitehead(ed) Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey, First Series, Volume II 1687 – 1703 (Newark, NJ; 1881) pp. 322 – 327, 394 – 397. Digital version online at Archive.org
- ³⁵ *op. cit.* Whitehead Documents Relating to the Colonial History of New Jersey, Volume II, pp. 486, 487.
- ³⁶ Monmouth County Deeds, Book C, pp. 85, 88, 90; recorded 27 March 1695.
- ³⁷ Calendar of Records in the New Jersey Office of Secretary of State, 1614 – 1703, pages 321-322. General Board of Proprietors of the Eastern Division of New Jersey, Surveys and Warrants, 1675-1997: O (EJ), Folio 196.
- ³⁸ *op. cit.* Riker, Annals of Newton, pages 395 – 396, 427.
- ³⁹ John E. Stillwell, Historical and Genealogical Miscellany Volume III (New York; 1914) p.262. Digital copy available through FamilySearch.com.
- ⁴⁰ John E. Stillwell, Historical and Genealogical Miscellany Volume VI: Unrecorded Wills and Inventories Monmouth County New Jersey (reprint Shrewsbury Historical Society; 1975) p.219. Digital copy available through FamilySearch.com.
- ⁴¹ *op.cit.* Stillwell, Historical and Genealogical Miscellany Volume VI Unrecorded Wills and Inventories, page 20.
- ⁴² NJA[1], 23, 283; citing Monmouth County Book of Wills, Volume 1, page 57.
- ⁴³ Department of State Secretary of State's Office Deeds, Surveys and Commissions, ca. 1650-1856: K-Small, Folios 47, 48; AAA, Folios 77, 117; and D-2, Folio 125.
- ⁴⁴ Edwin Salter, History of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, (Bayonne, NJ: F Gardner & Sons, 1890) pages xxxv-xxxvi.
- ⁴⁵ Documents Relating to the Colonial History of New Jersey, Volume XXIII, Calendar of New Jersey Wills, Volume 1, 1670 – 1730 (Paterson, NJ: The Press Printing & Publishing Company; 1901) p 283
- ⁴⁶ John E. Stillwell, Historical and Genealogical Miscellany Volume VI: Unrecorded Wills and Inventories Monmouth County New Jersey (reprint Shrewsbury Historical Society; 1975) p.41. Digital copy available through FamilySearch.com.
- ⁴⁷ George C. Beekman, Early Dutch Settlers of Monmouth County, New Jersey (Freehold, NJ: Moreau Brothers Publishers; 1901), page 122. Refers to Monmouth County Deeds, Liber I, page 184.
- ⁴⁸ Several deeds and indentures are found referenced in the online listing of the holdings of the Monmouth County Historical Society, Freehold.
- ⁴⁹ James McCarthy, McCarthy-Anderson Genealogy, 2015. Available online at: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mccartjh/McCarthy-o/p32.htm#i1632>
- ⁵⁰ John E. Stillwell, Historical and Genealogical Miscellany Volume VI: Unrecorded Wills and Inventories Monmouth County New Jersey (reprint Shrewsbury Historical Society; 1975) pp.22, 64, 68. Digital copy available through FamilySearch.com.
- ⁵¹ Monmouth County Deeds, Book E, p. 212; recorded 29 August 1716.
- ⁵² Monmouth County Deeds, Book E, pp. 214a, 215; recorded 29 August 1716.
- ⁵³ Monmouth County Deeds, Book E, pp. 217, 219; recorded 29 August 1716; Book G, p. 52; *entered* 6 February 1721 and p. 168; *entered* 22 December 1729.
- ⁵⁴ *op. cit.* Riker, Annals of Newton, pages 132 – 135.
- ⁵⁵ *op.cit.* Salter and Beekman, Old Times in Old Monmouth, pages 92-3.
- ⁵⁶ *op.cit.* Griffiths, A History of Baptists in New Jersey; p.19.

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- ⁵⁷ John E. Stillwell, Historical and Genealogical Miscellany Volume VI: Unrecorded Wills and Inventories Monmouth County New Jersey (reprint Shrewsbury Historical Society; 1975) pp.52-58. Digital copy available through FamilySeach.com.
- ⁵⁸ Karl Lemons, *John Bowne Will and Debtor List*, accessed 8 December 2017, https://www.wikitree.com/index.php?title=Space:John_Bowne_Will_and_Debtor_list.&public=1
- ⁵⁹ *The New Netherland Register*, 1:2, February 1911, page 31.
- ⁶⁰ Loose Deeds, New Jersey Archives.
- ⁶¹ Monmouth County Wills, Liber E, page 523.
- ⁶² *op. cit.* Everett, Old Middletown Town Book 1667 to 1700; p. 30. Names and birthdates of children.
- ⁶³ Conover Family Papers, Collection of the Monmouth County (NJ) Historical Association; <http://www.monmouthhistory.org/Sections-read-31.html>
- ⁶⁴ Monmouth County Wills, Liber B, page 256
- ⁶⁵ John E. Stillwell, Historical and Genealogical Miscellany Volume VI: Unrecorded Wills and Inventories Monmouth County New Jersey (reprint Shrewsbury Historical Society; 1975) p. 118. Digital copy available through FamilySeach.com.
- ⁶⁶ John Warren Hartshorne, "Richard Hartshorne" *The Lines of Richard Hartshorne of Monmouth County, NJ* Hartshorn Research Register (25 August 2001) <http://www.hartshorn.us/Family/register.htm>
- ⁶⁷ *Ancestors of Richard Lawrence Clarke*. Unreferenced; copy in author's possession (Holman lineages).
- ⁶⁸ Monmouth County Deeds, Book E, p. 213, recorded 29 August 1716.
- ⁶⁹ Monmouth County Deeds, Book E, pp. 60, 61; recorded 15 January 1714 (o.s.).
- ⁷⁰ *op.cit.* Thomas, The Thomas Book, page 397.
- ⁷¹ Monmouth County Deeds, Book G, p. 2; *entered* 4 February 1721.
- ⁷² Monmouth County Deeds, Book E, p. 221; recorded 29 August 1716.
- ⁷³ Monmouth County Deeds, Book D, p. 204, recorded 7 December 1709.
- ⁷⁴ Monmouth County Wills, Liber A, page 292.
- ⁷⁵ History of Monmouth County, Volume 2 (NY: Lewis Historical Publishing Company; 1922) p. 418.
- ⁷⁶ Monmouth County Deeds, Book E, pp. 274, 282.
- ⁷⁷ *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, 9:347-352 (1885); different extract than that found in New Jersey Colonial Documents, Volume 12: Marriages 1665 – 1800.
- ⁷⁸ Burlington County Wills, Liber I, page 215.
- ⁷⁹ Monmouth County Wills, Liber D, page 56.
- ⁸⁰ Monmouth County Wills, Liber A, page 153. See also John E. Stillwell, Historical and Genealogical Miscellany Volume VI: Unrecorded Wills and Inventories Monmouth County New Jersey (reprint Shrewsbury Historical Society; 1975) pp.95-96. Digital copy available through FamilySeach.com.